

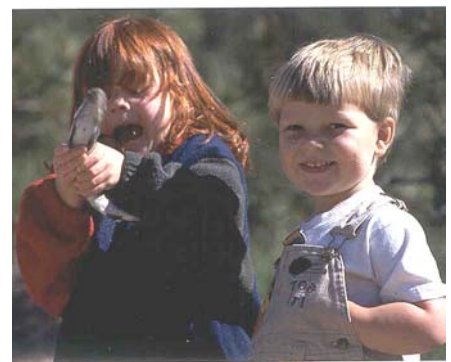


NATIONAL FISHING and BOATING WEEK

2003 Report

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK 2003

OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages public lands that directly affect over 117,000 miles of fish-bearing streams and almost 3 million acres of reservoirs and natural lakes. The BLM supports the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) Vision of Secretary Norton's Four C's:

- Conservation through
- cooperation,
- communication, and
- consultation

The BLM also supports the USDI Mission of Resource Protection, Resource Use, Recreation, and Serving Communities. The BLM supports this vision and mission through its programs to protect, enhance, and restore natural resources, to manage its lands for multiple uses when possible, and to work with public and private organizations, corporations, and fellow Federal, state, and local resource agencies to provide better services to all of its "customers", including the natural resources we all love to experience.

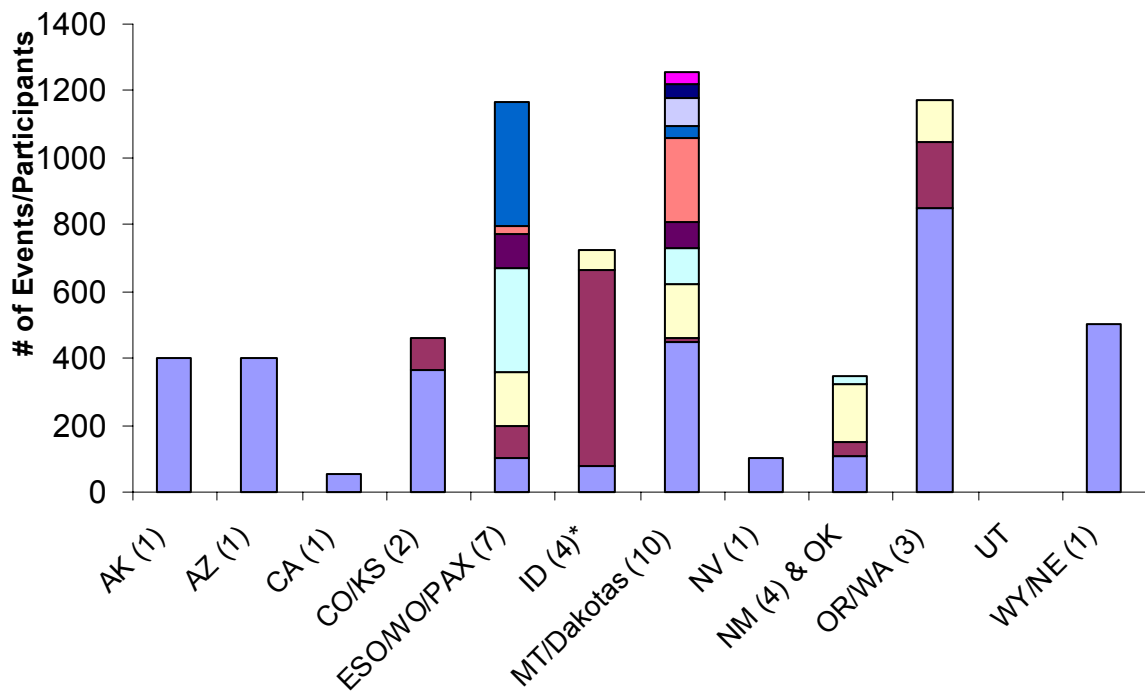
Through research and monitoring, the BLM hopes to develop a better understanding of its lands in order to improve management decision-making. The BLM has also developed a strong focus on improving recreational opportunities on its managed lands, including working on public outreach to educate the public on environmental stewardship. One way the BLM accomplishes improved recreational opportunities in conjunction with environmental stewardship is by sponsoring and participating in National Fishing and Boating Week (NFBW) events throughout the country.

National Fishing and Boating Week 2003

Recreational fishing and boating are among the country's favorite pastimes, with over 50 million participants - recreational fishing alone generates \$116 billion annually. Since the start of the NFBW observance in 1979, the BLM has worked with industry, public and private conservation leaders, Federal and state natural resource agencies, and anglers to introduce more young people to fishing and boating. This year's celebration of these healthy pastimes incorporates the "*Passport to Fishing and Boating (2003)*" program, developed by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation-fishing and boating industry partners. The *Passport* program combines safe fishing and boating education with environmental stewardship in order to provide youngsters with a deeper appreciation for the environment, while enjoying a day out with family, friends, and mentors.

The BLM, an active partner of the NFBW 2003 Steering Committee, conducted a series of events during NFBW in many of its State and local offices, including the BLM Washington Office. More than 6,500 students and their families participated in 32 BLM-sponsored NFBW events in 2003.

This report summarizes activities from state and field offices that participated in National Fishing and Boating Week 2003 events.



Participating States

32 Events

6,577 Participants

*Boise SO provided educational booth at Boise River Festival ~ 100,000 in attendance
Color blocks denote separate events and their approximate number of participants

National Fishing & Boating Week 2003 BLM State Participation

ALASKA

The Northern Field Office at Outdoor Days in Fairbanks



Fisheries biologist Ingrid McSweeney (right) explains the life cycle of salmon to sixth-graders attending Outdoor Days in Fairbanks.

Children received a vivid illustration of those challenges by playing a "chutes and ladders" tagging game based on the salmon's life cycle. With high enthusiasm and energy, they migrated up a make-believe river past a variety of obstacles, including bears, anglers, eagles, and dams. Only a lucky few reached the spawning grounds, reinforcing that less than one percent of the 2,500-5,000 eggs laid by a typical Pacific salmon will live to spawn.

In May fisheries biologists at BLM's Northern Field Office assisted with Outdoor Days, an annual, week-long event organized by several federal and state agencies for sixth-grade students in Fairbanks-area schools. More than 400 students attended this year's Outdoor Days, held on the campus of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. The program teaches young adults about Alaska's diverse flora and fauna, environmentally responsible resource extraction, natural resource protection and conservation, as well as career opportunities in natural resource - related fields.

At the fisheries station above Smith Lake, students learned about the life cycles of the Pacific salmon and the many challenges they encounter from incubating egg to spawning adult.



Students experience the challenges of salmon migration in a game requiring them to jump over a dam (a wooden plank) and elude predators, including a hungry bear (the boy at left who is trying to tag them).

ARIZONA

The LaPaz County "Take a Kid Fishing Day" ...

... is a community-organized and sponsored annual event. The BLM Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Program has been a supportive partner since 1995, providing set up & take down logistics, day-of-event support, industry contacts, and some funding as needed. Take a Kid Fishing Day was celebrated on February 1st, since both the fish and fishermen would not do so well if the event were held during the first week of June in 100+ degree weather, when most National Fishing and Boating Week events take place. The grand event was held at the LaPaz County Park Lagoons just downstream from Havasu, in three ponds adjacent to the Colorado River. The three ponds were stocked with 2,000 rainbow trout, courtesy of the Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery (Arizona Game & Fish), and were open to the public all morning to 450 children of the community and their families, with license requirements waived for that morning. Local police volunteered to prepare and serve donated food. Private anglers of the community distributed fishing tackle, and assures each kid knows how to use the gear. At the end of the morning, the kids turned in their gear, showed off their catch, and were awarded donated door prizes.

Fisherman line one of the small ponds and on a small pier off the Colorado River.



Volunteers setting up rods & reels for kids, with the Colorado River in the background.

Each participant recieved a small tackle box containing basic angling essentials. Photos were taken, and the ponds were then opened in the afternoon to all anglers with valid licenses.



Sending the right message to the community.



Some veterans of previous fishing days!

CALIFORNIA



Catching Fish-n-Fun on the Trinity River

It was a day to remember for 56 Northern California children and their families. The sun was shining bright on August 16, 2003 as the **BLM Redding Field Office** hosted a fishing and raft trip for children, many undergoing treatment for serious medical problems or other disabilities. **Chuck Schultz**, Redding Field Office Manager was on hand to help event coordinator **Bill Crothers** make sure everything went smoothly.

Trinity River National Wild and Scenic Area



Bucktail River Access (Trinity River WSR)

The kids made two river stops for refreshments during the trip. But the real excitement of catching a few large salmon allowed some kids to realize a dream. After the float the children were bused to the Douglas City Fire Hall for a barbecue complete with raffle prizes. Handouts were available on recreational fishing and other literature that the kids "reely" enjoyed.

The barbecue was made possible due to the efforts of more than 100 volunteers from BLM, US Fish & Wildlife, USFS, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Trinity County Search & Rescue, local organizations, businesses, rafting companies and several fishing guides.

Several Trinity River fishing guide companies donated rafts and boat operators, taking time out of their busy summer season to help with the event. The fishing guides offered free guided fishing float trips to the lucky kids whose names were drawn from a hat. The Trinity County Office of Education donated a bus to help, and driver to transport families from the river take out point to the barbecue, and the Douglas City and Lewiston Fire Departments provided ambulances and emergency medical technicians (fortunately, there was no need for their services). There was fun to be had by all!



Reloading the water gun for "Round Two" on the river.

Waterfight!

COLORADO



Take A Family Fishing June 7, 2003 National Fishing and Boating Week Lake Lehow, Littleton, Colorado

Take a Family Fishing is an educational program for families with kids ages 5 and up sponsored by a partnership of 8 federal, state and private entities.

Committee members represent: Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado State Parks, Colorado Department of Wildlife, Denver Water, and the Wright and McGill Co., manufacturers of Eagle Claw fishing equipment.



This year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our Colorado fishing event at Lake Lehow, the new permanent home of Take a Family Fishing.

The goal of this event is to introduce youngsters and their families to fishing and the aquatic environment through a positive learning experience. Although we initially planned for 300 people, our final registration showed a full event with a total of 362 participants, of which 215 were children. The weather forecast promised a cold, rainy day, but no rain fell and the sun made its appearance by 11:00 a.m. at Denver Water's Kassler Education Center. It was a perfect day for fishing!



After receiving their sunglasses and visors, getting eagle and fish tattoos, and being entertained by Woodsy Owl, Otto Otter, and Ernie Eagle at registration, the families were led to the educational stations in the Kassler Building.



In the Kassler Building, they experienced Knot Tying and Rigging; Aquatic Ecology; Angler Ethics/Fishing Tackle/Baits/Licenses; Fish Biology/Anatomy; and the Fish Tanks, which contained several species of sport fish for the kids to identify and gently handle.

The Boating and Safety station, taught by a Colorado State Parks ranger, was a quick walk from the building.



After a short casting lesson, participants were escorted across the road to Lake Lehow where they caught many rainbow trout and a few bass. The young anglers and their families were then treated to a hot dog lunch.



Each child received a fishing rod and a tackle box full of goodies that included fishing tackle, educational information and fun stuff contributed by the sponsors.



Satisfied Customers!

This program depends on its volunteers to succeed. This year approximately 80 volunteers showed up to help with all aspects of this program, from parking cars and teaching, to fish cleaning and refreshments. Volunteers were employees of the sponsoring agencies and their family members, including several teenage boys and girls willing to don the agencies' mascot costumes. Volunteers also came from Trout Unlimited and Queen of the River Fish Company. Colorado State Office participants included Marion Malinowski and Jay Thompson, committee members and education coordinators. Both worked with Robin Knox of CDOW this year to update and rewrite the curriculum for the education stations. At the event, Marion was the station whistle blower, getting participants from station to station, while Jay taught aquatic ecology. Ron Taylor from the CSO Land Records section taught Angler Ethics/Fishing Tackle/Baits/Licenses, while his nephew, Mike Hilton, helped with lake fishing. Marion's NPS husband, Bob Higgins assisted at the casting stations. The committee remains busy in the fall completing the event scrapbook and making plans for the 2004 event.

Grand Junction Field Office

The Grand Junction Field Office helped sponsor a National Fishing Week event on the 7th of June 2003 at Connected Lakes Colorado State Park. Other sponsors of this event were the local Wal-Mart store, the Grand Junction City of Parks and Recreation Department, and the Colorado Sportsmen's Wildlife Fund.

There were 47 young participants along with about 50 parents. Each novice and parent was provided training on various aspects of fish and fishing based on the Pathway to Fishing Program, which includes 12 stations with short information exchange sessions, hands on hook tying, casting, and lure presentation. Then each receives a fishing set-up which included a rod & reel and small tackle box with gear. Fishing and conservation information for later enjoyment was also provided. The grand prizes were two large tackle boxes provided by Wal-Mart. Fun was had by all.



A little training...



A little gear....



**A little fine
tweaking...**

**A little
camaraderie...**



A little silence...

and a whole lot of fishing!



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

This year's National Fishing and Boating Week event at the Constitution Gardens Pond in Washington, D.C., was held on June 2nd under perfect skies, and all-around perfect conditions. The water in the pond was cool, clean and at a high level, thanks to recent maintenance and repairs by the National Park Service (NPS). Most importantly, the fish were cooperating, thanks to a stocking of bass, bluegills, and sunfish the previous week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Five schools from the District of Columbia, Baltimore, Maryland and Virginia sent 311 kids to the fun-filled environmental event. A total of 179 volunteers assisted the students. In addition to the NPS and USFWS, partners included the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Bureau of Reclamation, the USDA Forest Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), the District of Columbia (DC) Fisheries and Wildlife Division, the DC Department of Health, the American Sportsfishing Association (ASA), the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF), Equal Three Communications, Kiwanis, and the Sharpe Health School.

The students first stopped at the registration desk, then proceeded through five setups of the *Passport to Fishing and Boating* program for 1-1.5 hrs, where they learned about boating safety, knot tying, fish handling, fish identification, environmental stewardship, casting, and local resource information.

A number of students then participated in the official "Castoff", attended by DC mayor Anthony Williams. Everyone then had the opportunity to try their luck at fishing.

The MD DNR provided several interesting stops for the students. They reinforced boating safety by a visit to the MD DNR's jet skis trailer. Along the way, the kids had the opportunity to visit a touch tank, and learn first-hand about aquatic life found in the Chesapeake Bay. A *Scales & Tales* program allowed the students to get close to live hawks and owls, and learn how these animals need special protection. For the fortunate successful fishermen (and women!), a personalized fish certificate was provided to those who caught a fish.

The children were provided a sandwich, chips, fruit, and a drink for lunch. Then, it was back to fishing. Before they left, each student was provided with a goodie bag filled with many fish-related treats. In addition, each teacher was provided with a disposable camera to capture the moments as they unfolded. The cameras were collected at the end of the day, and the pictures sent to the teachers within the week. What service!

The level of the water in Constitution Gardens Pond was lowered almost two feet, several weeks prior to the event, to allow NPS personnel to repair damage to the side bulkhead wall, to clean out debris, and to create several habitat enhancement structures within the pond.



Repair and habitat enhancement work in the pond two weeks before the event.



Will there really be water in here in two weeks?



Setup before the mad rush of customers!



Get those rods and reels together!

Volunteers arrived 1-3 hours prior to the scheduled arrival of the children, in order to prepare the rods, reels, and terminal tackle. The 6-station Passport program was set up in five different locations around the pond, so all of the students simultaneously run through the educational program.

Once the students arrived, they were whisked away to the registration tables before heading to a Passport setup, where they began their indoctrination in safe boating and fishing, and environmental stewardship. Some classes went directly over to the MD DNR Scales and Tales program and touch tank, and the DC Fisheries observation tank.

DC Mayor Anthony Williams was on hand to share a few words of encouragement to the students, along with other leaders of the natural resource agencies and fishing and boating organizations.

The Registration Desk



The official "Castoff"



Mayor Anthony Williams & bass pro



"Okay, now.

Volunteers - Blue hats

Students - Red hats."

"Lights. Cameras. Action!"

"... and let 'er rip!"

Each leader was paired with a student "fishing buddy", to assist them in the fundamentals of safe fishing. After the official "Castoff", the fishing buddies spent several more minutes with their mentors before heading back to their classmates for some additional fishing and some time in the Passport program.



Ready to begin the Passport Program



The Fish Identification Station



Boating Safety instruction
"Don't fall overboard!"



Hands-on training

A Visit to the MD DNR Stations



Scales
&
Tales

The friendly crew from MD DNR kept the kids busy with up-close views of wildlife from the Chesapeake Bay region (land, "sea" & air!). The hawk, vulture and owl were favorites, along with the horseshoe crabs in the touch tank, the jet skis, and the fish certification table for lucky anglers. Handouts were provided at all stops to enhance the students' learning experience.

DNR's touch tank, DC's fish tank, and DNR's boater safety station.



Mommy, does it bite?



Can you take us for a ride in the pond?

Eventually, it was time for some serious fishing. The volunteers were ready to hand out the tackle, bait the hooks, provide instruction, and patiently untangle each and every line if needed. Additional support was provided by the two official mascots. The kids did the rest. Hundreds of fish were caught within view of the Washington Monument.



My first bass.



What a fight it put up!



One fish that didn't get away.



Neither did this one.



Lunch break on the wall

After lunch, it was back to fishing for a while. Then, all too soon, it was time to return the rods and pick up the goodie bags. They were filled with fish trinkets and some good information. The teachers returned their disposable cameras that captured some great memories-the pictures made it to the classrooms in one week. Buses were loaded and it was time to clean up, after a safe and enjoyable day on the lake!

For more information contact Richard E. Bulavinetz at 202-452-0325, or Michelle Dawson-Powell at 202-452-5134.

EASTERN STATES OFFICE

BLM Eastern States collaborated with the WO, various Federal and local government agencies, and with private local and national partners in the celebration at the Constitutions Gardens Pond in Washington, D. C. on the 2nd of June 2003. At least 9 BLM Eastern States employees assisted efforts from tackle maintenance to fishing assistance, to instructional workshop assistance.



BLM Eastern States summer hire employee, (above) and Ted Laird (below in cowboy hat) assist youths at Constitution gardens event in casting and tackle repair.

Cook Lake/ Kiwanis Kids' Fishing Event

BLM Eastern States worked with state and regional agencies, along with the private sector, to hold an aquatic education and fishing event at Cameron Run Regional Park, Alexandria, VA on June 7, 2003. At a small 4 acre lake (Cook Lake) approximately 100 youths were assisted by the division 20 Kiwanis club, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Alexandria Recreation Department, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Cost share funding, program design, and educational materials were provided by BLM Eastern States. Refreshments and supplies were provided by local corporate sponsors.

Mitchelville/ Kiwanis Kid's Fishing Event

BLM Eastern States co-sponsored an aquatic education and fishing event at a local pond at Mitchelville, VA, on April 28, 2003. At a small pond approximately 100 youths were assisted by the local Mitchelville Kiwanis club. Cost share funding, program design, and educational materials were provided by BLM Eastern States. Refreshments and supplies were provided by local corporate sponsors.



Mitchelville Kiwanis Club members assist youths in learning fishing techniques and fish habitat.

Kiwanis Club of Smithfield Kid's Fishing Event

BLM Eastern States co-sponsored an aquatic education and fishing event on August 20, 2003, on a tidal section of the James River Pier. Approximately 158 youths were assisted by 88 volunteers of the local Smithfield Kiwanis Division 21 Club, the BLM, and others. Cost share funding, program design, and educational materials were provided by BLM Eastern States. Refreshments and supplies were provided by local corporate sponsors. Additional sponsors included the Virginia Saltwater Recreation Fund and the James River Fishing Pier.



Smithfield Kiwanis youth fishing event assisted through BLM cost share funding and technical advice successfully catches a few fish and smiles off the Smithfield , VA fishing dock.

For more information on the above events, contact Geoff Walsh at (703) 440-1668.

Pathways to Fishing Jackson Field Office Fishing Event

In May, approximately 100 kids traveled through "*Pathways to Fishing*" at Lefluer's Bluff State Park in Jackson, MS. The participants learned about where fish live, how to catch them and how to cast while visiting Mayes Lake.

Sponsored by the BLM Eastern States Jackson Field Office, the Jackson Bass Club, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Pathways to Fishing* is a "hands on" program that teaches, in small groups, how to catch a fish, aquatic ecology, and angler ethics.

Experienced anglers and biologists taught the kids as they traveled through Pathways. A new session began every 15 minutes and lasted for approximately one hour. Rods and reels were available on a limited basis at the completion of the stations, so the participants were able to practice on their own thereafter. Some brought their own equipment..

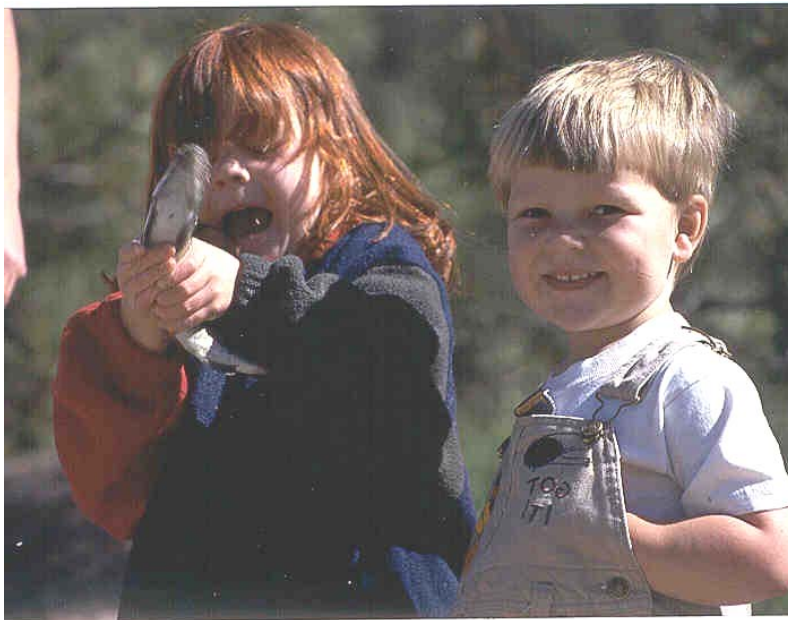
For more information Contact Patrice Junius at 601-977-5400.

IDAHO

Free Fishing Day

Saturday, June 7, 2003 was Free Fishing Day in Idaho, a time when anglers of all ages, residents and nonresidents alike, can celebrate the day by fishing anywhere in Idaho without a license. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for novices to give fishing a try and perhaps develop it into a life-long pursuit. Fishing clinics were held around the state with parents encouraged to bring their children out for a day of fun and excitement.

Lack of fishing tackle and experience is no excuse. At many locations equipment was made available for use and fishing experts were on hand to help novice anglers learn the ins and outs of fishing. In addition, the Fish and Game stocked lakes and ponds, where clinics were held, with hatchery rainbow trout prior to the special day. BLM co-hosted a number of these clinics with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, and local businesses, rotary clubs, Recreation Districts, and others.



Successful fishing enthusiasts display their catch on Free Fishing Day in Idaho

Boise River Festival

The 2003 Boise River Festival, held on June 24 – 29, 2003, attracted over 100,000 people who came to the parks along the Boise River to learn and have fun. Some 300 outdoor events, featured exhibits, glow-in-the-dark floats, a balloon rally, 90 different ethnic foods, and fireworks. BLM co-hosted an activity booth for children and adults - “Boise River Facts and Fun”. In the booth were many fish, wildlife, and conservation-related activities for all ages. At the “Macroinvertebrate Mayhem” section, students learned about the aquatic insects serving as indicators of river water quality in the Boise River. An activity popular with children was the “Incredible Journey”, which teaches about the travels of a water droplet through the water cycle. Again, this year we had the very popular Boise River underwater viewing camera. Here youngsters were able to view fish swimming by the camera in the river. This year’s booth was an enormous success and very busy all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.



Kids taking an “incredible journey” learn about the water cycle.

The Boise River’s aquatic insects were popular among the younger generation



The Booth is located adjacent to the beautiful Boise River

Cooperators included the Bureau of Land Management, University of Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, the Boise Storm Water “Partners for Clean Water”, the City of Boise Public Waste and Groundwater, and the USDA Forest Service.

Wilkins Pond

About 60 kids signed up for the annual fishing derby and barbeque at Wilkins Pond near Grangeville, Idaho. Many trout were caught on a beautiful summer day in North Idaho.



Free Fishing Day at Park Center Pond

Approximately 584 kids and their parents participated in the annual Free Fishing day clinic at Park Center Pond, on June 7 in Boise. The focus of this event is to provide an opportunity for parents to spend a day with their children. Park Center Pond Fishing Clinic is hosted by the BLM, and the Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council, Micron Technology, Sportsman's Warehouse, Hillcrest Floral, Nagel Beverage (Pepsi), the U.S. Forest Service and Idaho Fish and Game.



Salmon, Idaho Kids Fish Fair

The 10th Annual Salmon, Idaho Kids' Fish Fair and Derby at Kids' Creek Pond on June 7th was a huge success. The festivities started at 8:00 am and continued until noon. A total of 79 kids participated in the derby spent the first two hours of the day fishing for rainbow trout. As the fish were caught they were brought to the weighing station and child with the largest fish from each of the 4 ages groups won a prize. There were also 17 tagged fish in the pond and the lucky children who caught those were awarded a \$50 savings bond. Five children were lucky enough to catch these tagged fish.

One of the lucky winners who took home a fish and a \$50 savings bond



The event also included the casting contest and arts and crafts activities. The casting activity challenged the kids to cast rubber weights through targets. Though very difficult to do, the children participating had better success than fisheries employees running it. The arts and crafts basically entailed children using water paint to paint pictures of fish. The winners of the casting contest won a Zebco rod and reel combination or a tackle box filled with fishing supplies.



The casting contest netted winners fishing tackle

In addition to the fishing derby local fisheries biologist gave a presentations on ethical/unethical anglers, knot tying, fish identification and regulations and care of catch. After the fishing clinic every child's name was drawn from the registration can and they all received one of many donated prizes. At the end of the derby all kids went home a winner and everyone enjoyed this annual family fishing day. The event "spawnsors" included the Salmon –Challis National Forest, Idaho Fish and Game, Salmon Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, NOAA Fisheries and Hooked on Fishing International.

Listening to the presentation about fishing



Kids catching fish at the 10th annual Kids Fish Fair in Salmon, Idaho

Drawing fish was a popular activity at the Kids Fish Fair



MARYLAND

Patuxent Research Refuge Fishing Events

Patuxent Research Refuge hosted two Kids Fishing Events (June 7 and June 8, 2003). The Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, less than 30 minutes from our nation's capital, provides visitors with the opportunity to learn about wildlife and environmental stewardship at their visitor center, to enjoy outdoor recreation on the 12,750 acre grounds, and is also home to a world-renowned wildlife research facility.

Partners included the FWS Fisheries Program (staff and materials), FWS Chesapeake Bay Office (staff and displays), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Wal-Mart (supplies and give-aways), Bass-Pro (fishing equipment), Water Works Wonders (supplies and coupons) and Friends and Volunteers of Patuxent (volunteer time and funding assistance).

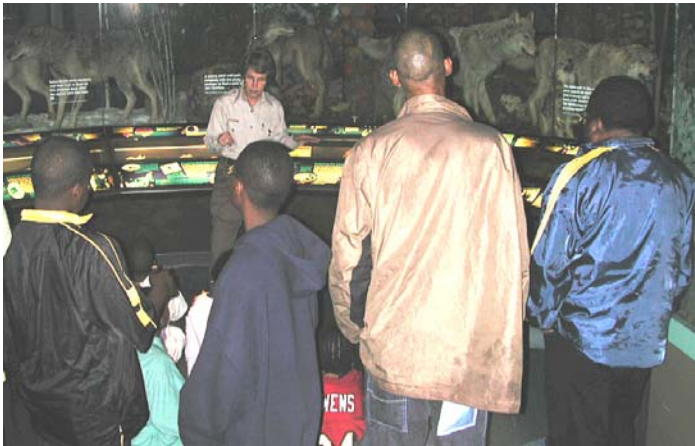


The entrance to Patuxent



Welcome to the Visitor's Center

The June 7th morning event provided fishing opportunities for urban youths and was a partnership with the FWS Fisheries Program, which financed bus transportation for the students. Pure Fishing provided bright red hats for the kids, NOAA provided great hats for the volunteers, and the BLM provided goodie bags. The NOAA and BLM also assisted during the event. During the rainy start, the 20 kids spent some time inside the visitor center, learning about wildlife and ecology, and environmental stewardship. Once the rain tapered off, everyone rode the bus to Cash Lake, to try their hand at rain fishing. Many of the kids caught their first fish, ever! After about an hour of fishing, the kids headed back to the visitor center for a great lunch of pizza and soda, and received goodie bags before their 1:00PM departure.



Learning about wolves and their prey at the Visitor's Center.



Hannibal Bolton instructs a newcomer to the observation room.



Some last minute instructions before going after the big one!

"First Fish" Day!



My first fish!

Me too!



Me three!

A helping hand



Patuxent Post-derby celebration



Pizza, soda, and good friends.
It doesn't get any better than
this!

(Photos courtesy of Bob Pos)

The June 8th event was a public kids fishing day primarily targeting families. Approximately 20 FWS staff (includes partners) and 15 volunteers assisted with the events. Approximately 220 youth participated in fishing activities; with total (youth and adult) participation approximating 400. There was good media coverage announcing the event, and media presence at the June 8th event. The highlight of each day was the excitement of the kids bringing in their catches, especially a 22" largemouth bass! Although the fishing was catch-and-release, the kids were able to take home Polaroid photos of themselves with their catch, as well as give-away bags of fishing materials and coupons supplied by sponsors. For many, this was a first-time fishing experience.

MONTANA & THE DAKOTAS

Let's Go Fishing Now . . .



For the 446 people who attended the Dickinson Kids Fishing Derby the day will stand out in history. Sure, the sun was shining. Yes, a whopping 228 kids registered. Granted the trout, crappie, walleye, carp and a multitude of bullheads were clogging the lines. But what will make May 17, 2003, *really* stand out in everyone's minds? No wind! It was an absolutely beautiful North Dakota day!

When one of the volunteers sounded the lunch horn, many of the young anglers didn't want to take their lines out of the water. The lure of lunch got the better of them and they quickly devoured the hot dogs, chips, cookies and ice-cold sodas.

There were trophies for the biggest fish and as always, there was an abundance of prizes. Each child got a two-tray Plano tackle box and the chance to win a number of other fishing related door prizes.

Among the 27 volunteers were BLMers **Mary Ramsey**, **Doug Burger**, **Don Rufledt**, and **Connie Kolling**, and **Karen Wolf's** daughter, **Kassidy**.

Everybody's Fishing Now . . .

On May 19 -21, three Dickinson schools participated in the annual fishing schools sponsored by BLM and the Forest Service. Roosevelt, Jefferson and Berg Elementary schools brought 5th and 6th graders to the Jaycee Park for a few hours of fishing. The 157 kids were delighted to catch bluegills, perch and bullheads - well, maybe more delighted about the perch and bluegills. Among the 17 volunteers were BLMers **Don Rufledt**, **Lee Jefferis**, **Mike Kolling** and **Connie Kolling**.



Don Rufledt demonstrates.

Come On, Come On, Fish With Me!

That afternoon volunteers hosted the second year for the Best Friends Program. Seventeen individuals participated in the Big Brother/Big Sister type program. They enjoyed an afternoon of fishing and received a tackle box and a snack. North Dakota Volunteer Coordinator **Connie Kolling** stayed to help. (*Mary Ramsey, North Dakota FO*)

Kid's Fishing Day "Reely" Fun

Two hours of fishing and fun were what 85 children from central Montana did on June 12 at Casino Creek in Lewistown. Fish, Wildlife and Parks and BLM teamed up to provide an educational and fun experience for the kids. The event began at 10 a.m. and ended around noon but eager anglers hung around to continue fishing.



Alyssa, daughter of Mike Barrick of the LFO, with her big catch.

All participants were between the ages of 2 to 12 and learned about water safety, fishing techniques, and fish identification. They all received their very own tackle box filled with treasures, including the booklets "Fishing and our Environment Fun and Facts" provided by **George Peternel** of the MSO. The young anglers got hot dogs, cookies and refreshments, as well as bottled water provided by Big Spring Water of Lewistown.

Fred Roberts, BLM wildlife biologist, **Cris Brown**, office manager, and **Anne Tewes**, FWP fisheries biologist, coordinated the event.

Aurora Northerner from the Lewistown FO provided tips on water safety and **Fred Roberts** taught how to tie knots, how to string your line, and the proper bait to use. Fred's wife, Linda Roberts, took pictures again this year. Many FWP employees also provided assistance. Many BLMers and their families participated in the event and enjoyed the fishing and fun.

The Lewistown FO, led by Fred Roberts, in conjunction with Walleyes Unlimited, also played host to Kid's Fishing Day at Fourchette Bay on June 28. Thirty-five eager spent 3-4 hours fishing from boats and had lunch together (*story by Kaylene Patten, Lewistown FO; photos by Linda Roberts*).



Aurora Northerner discusses water safety.

Fish Fever

Rainy and cold weather didn't hinder 110 young anglers from participating in the All-American Fishing Event held June 7 at McNenny State Fish Hatchery, rural Spearfish. Participants learned valuable skills including the art of tying fishing knots and casting, and how to use certain fishing rods, reels, and tackle.

Owen Fox of Fruitdale was a happy fisherman, in spite of the rainy weather.



They also studied fish biology and habitat. The children toured the hatchery and actively participated in safety demonstrations. The kids went home with more than wet clothes. They all received a packet full of fishing tackle and literature, and most of them won new fishing outfits, tackle boxes, or other donated items.



Blake Butzlaff of Whitewood with a 3 - pound rainbow trout.

Even though the rain continued, some die-hard anglers went fishing at one of the Mirror Lakes just west of the hatchery. They reeled in large rainbow trout and some smaller green sunfish, making the day a true success.



Remington Wood of Spearfish, and his dad, Barry, with the big bait-casting rod and reel combo that Remington won.

The fishing event at McNenny is a cooperative effort involving several governmental agencies, private business, and other volunteers. Specifically, the federal agencies involved include the BLM, Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (D. C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery), National Park Service (Devils Tower National Monument), and the U. S. Forest Service. The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks was the sole state agency involved, with conservation officers, fisheries management staff, and McNenny State Fish Hatchery personnel helping with the event. Several members of the High Plains Anglers volunteered, and the Dakota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society was also involved. Boy Scouts of America Troop 17

generously provided parking and traffic control. In addition, the scout troop fortuitously erected their large rain canopy on the hatchery grounds. Other individuals not affiliated with a particular group or organization also assisted. *(Carla Turbiville, South Dakota FO)*



Mason and Madison Kaitfors of Spearfish gleefully show off their winnings.

ADDITIONAL MONTANA FISHING BRIEFS :

On July 10th, Greg Albright and several BLM volunteers fished with 30 -40 Eagle Mount day-campers from Billings, Montana. Eagle Mount is a non-profit organization serving the needs of adults and children with disabilities. To name a few, they offer horseback riding, downhill skiing and fishing opportunities.

On May 16th, 78 junior high and high school kids, and 20 adults participated in an all-day fishing trip to South Sandstone Reservoir, co-sponsored by MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the BLM (David Squires - Miles City, MT). FWP donated fishing poles to school for all kids. David offered his time and assistance. This was the events first year and will be an annual event. The school will keep the poles and use them annually.

NEVADA

On June 21st more than 100 local kids ages 3-16 participated in a fun-filled day of fishing at the 10th Annual Humboldt County Fishing Derby. The derby was hosted by the Wilson family at their Andorno Ranch Pond. Jim French from the Nevada Division of Wildlife, made sure there were plenty of fish for the young anglers. The event was sponsored by the Winnemucca Field Office of the BLM, the Santa Rosa Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the Nevada Division of Wildlife. Local merchants donating prizes for the event were C.B. Brown Co., Raley's, Reliable Ace Hardware, Albertson's and King's.

The derby started at 8:00 am with prizes for the first fish caught in each age category. Weather conditions were perfect for fishing with it being cool and overcast with no wind. As a result, it didn't take long for the kids to start reeling in fish. Big fish brought in for measurement ranged from 13 to 16 inches in length.

Top award winners included:



The largest fish of the derby was caught by Katie Autrey

Largest fish in the following age categories:

- 4 and under: Savannah Molloy
- 5-8: Drake Kavanaugh
- 9-11: Jr Tom
- 12-16: Katie Autrey

When kids wanted a break from fishing, they could test their casting skills at the casting contest. The most accurate casters in their age category were:

- Under 4: Adrianna Valdez
- 5-10: Jordan Rinas
- 11-16: Linnel Tom

Several drawings were held throughout the derby for prizes including rod and reel combos, tackle boxes, tee shirts and other prizes. At the end of the derby a drawing was held for a bike, with the winner being Joshua Hale. Ashley Fresh was runner up winning a rod and reel combo.



Grand Prize winner Joshua Hale and his brothers pose with Joshua's new bike.

All of the age-group winners with their prizes.





Look what
I caught!

Fine stringers of trout.



A lazy-hazy day of fishing.

NEW MEXICO

Waters of Enchantment

The Taos Field Office, Carson National Forest, New Mexico Game and Fish, and the Town of Taos co-sponsored 3 Fish Fiestas and a Fly Fishing Clinic in Northern New Mexico during 2003.

Local businesses and governments provided critical support including cash, equipment, and food. Business support came from Angelina's of Espanola, Centinel Bank of Taos, Questa Food Mart, McDonald's of Taos and Espanola, Raley's Food Market in Taos, Frito Lay of Taos, Earth Grains Breads of Taos, Walmart of Taos and Espanola, Cabela's, Chama Valley Supermarket, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Lowe's Supersave in Espanola, P&M, Martins Country Store, Dairy Queen of Chama, Dark Timber Sporting Goods in Chama, Kool Ice, Eddie's Chevron in Chama, Sun Dial in Chama, Zia Credit Union in Espanola, Valley National Bank in Espanola, Sandia Casino, Cities of Gold Casino, Timberline in Espanola, Long John Silver's in Espanola, Smiths Grocery Store in Taos, and El Taoseno. Local government support came from the City of Espanola for the Hopewell Lake Fiesta and the Town of Questa for the Eagle Rock Lake Fiesta.

At each Fiesta event, children received a t-shirt and gift bag after they participated in six educational activities that included casting, invertebrate identification, water chemistry, state game regulations, fish printing, fashion a fish, and fire safety. A hot-dog lunch with chips, juice, cookies and fruit was donated by sponsors. At the end of each Fiesta, donated prizes were awarded for best casting by age level. In addition, prizes were raffled to give everyone a chance to win fishing equipment.

Eagle Rock Lake

The Questa Ranger District of the USFS hosted the kick-off Fish Fiesta at Eagle Rock Lake in Questa on June 7th to coincide with New Mexico's Free Fishing Day. Twenty-five volunteers helped one hundred and ten children enjoy a beautiful spring fishing day at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.



Cutthroat Clark and Stonefly Lois with participants at Eagle Rock Lake



Fish Printing ...



... and Invertebrate Identification booths



Eagle Rock Lake setting.

Santa Cruz Lake

The Taos Field Office hosted the second Fish Fiesta on June 14th at Santa Cruz Lake, which is north of Sante Fe. 2003 provided cooler weather than 2002 and water levels for the lake were the highest in three years. This provided an excellent day of fishing for 40 kids and families. 15 volunteers made the event possible.



Kids at Santa Cruz Lake learning about water quality.



Casting competition at Santa Cruz Lake.



Fashioning a fish to understand fish evolution.

Hopewell Lake

The Canjilon (pronounced kan-hee-lone) Ranger District hosted the third Fish Fiesta on June 21st at Hopewell Lake. Hopewell Lake is a beautiful lake located in the Brazos Mountains west of Taos. As with the other fiestas, the weather was sunny with comfortable temperatures. The third fiesta proved the biggest success with close to 175 children participating in fishing and educational events.



Educational puppet show at Hopewell.

View of the crowd at educational booths.



Orrilla Verde

The Taos Field Office hosts a special event in the Orrilla Verde (pronounced o-ree-ya ver-dee) Recreation Area that is geared to teenagers age 12 to 18. The 2003 event was held on September 27th, which coincides with a Free Fishing Day in New Mexico. The clinic focuses on fly-fishing technique and provides teenagers with a free fly rod so that they can continue to work at mastering their casting skills. The clinic is limited to 20 individuals with 2 instructors guiding the participants in groups of 10. Everyone who finishes the clinic receives a donated t-shirt, pole and creel bag. Five volunteers from Los Rios Anglers of Taos, BLM and the Town of Taos helped to organize this event.



Group of clinic participants in Orrilla Verde from 1999.

OREGON & WASHINGTON

Burns District/Hines Free Fishing day event . . .



Father demonstrates fishing techniques to son.

A traditional fishing contest was held along with a casting and a saddest fishing tale contest. The event featured a live tank (aquarium with aquatic insects and fish), a free hotdog feed, and prizes for kids by age class and for seniors too.

Nearly 120 people attended the Burns District fishing day, and all had a great, fun-filled experience.



Partners Get Involved . . .

Numerous partners contributed and participated in the event including: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service (Emigrant Creek Ranger District), Malheur Wildlife Refuge, Harney County Chamber of Commerce, Burns Butte Sportsman Club, approximately 15 local merchants, and of course us...Burns BLM District.

Children enjoy viewing aquatic insects and fish.



Kids Have Fun Fishing

Approximately 75 children participated in the Free Fishing Day activities. Prizes included a fishing rod and reel with a tackle box and tackle, which had a BLM environmental education message printed on it.

Proud fisherman shows off his catch.

Roseburg District Fishing Day "Catches" Family Fun



Lots of fishing and fun were what 850 children and their families did on June 12 at Cooper Creek Reservoir Casino Creek in Sutherlin, Oregon. A large number of trout were released in Cooper Creek Reservoir prior to the event. Fishing rods, reels, hooks and bait were available to participants without charge.

There were activities such as a casting contest and a fishing pool for kids under the age of five. Door prizes were drawn throughout the day and free snacks were also provided.

Contributions and services at Cooper Creek Reservoir were provided by: The Umpqua Fishermen's Association, Umpqua Valley Bassmasters, Umpqua Community College Upward Bound, City Sporting Goods of Sutherlin, Ray's Food Place, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Bi-Mart, Paul Jackson Wholesale, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, and Berkley. Local agencies involved included: the Douglas County Parks Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua National Forest, Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Vale District's Fishing Day

The Vale District's Free fishing day was held at Farewell Bend State Park, which included a variety of fishing contests and prizes for adults and children.



Smokey the Bear, JR the Beaver and Sparky the Fire Dog welcomed participants and assisted with the event. A fishing "trough" was provided to give children an opportunity to fish without venturing too close to the river bank.

Partners included the Presbyterian Community Care Center, Oregon Trail Fire Prevention Co-Op, and Oregon State Parks.

Sparky, JR, and Smokey welcome participants.

Approximately 200 people participated in what was a truly enjoyable event for everyone.



Smokey making the rounds

WYOMING

National Fishing and Boating Week, May 31 - June 8, 2003

On Saturday May 31st, the Fourteenth Annual Cheyenne Family Fishing Day was jointly sponsored by agencies, local organizations, and businesses. About 30 volunteers were involved in setting up displays, teaching kids, and talking to the public. There were approximately 500 participants including 172 registered kids.



Fish from Sloan's Lake

Kids got to fish in Sloan's Lake with help from friendly instructors. Participants also saw a live fish display from the lake, helping them to learn to identify local species. They were able to look at and identify aquatic insects from the lake. Participants learned about fish biology and ecology, fishing ethics, fly tying, fly and spin casting, as well as knot tying. The Wyoming Game & Fish Department's stream trailer which has a flowing stream to simulate bank protection, erosion and sediment loads, was a big hit again. Game & Fish also provided free canoe rides on the lake. Volunteers from Wyoming Game & Fish spent the day giving hands-on lessons in



Stream Trailer

fly tying to youths and adults. Agencies and organizations provided information about fishing throughout the State.

For all youngsters, 14 years of age and younger, there were free drawings for very nice fishing oriented prizes provided by local sponsors. Thanks mainly to a major grant from Wal-Mart, 110 kids took home prizes, which included numerous rod & reel combinations, tackle boxes, coolers and flashlights. Every youth received a free bag of goodies consisting of Water Works Wonders' water bottles and a floating key chain, as well as hooks, weights and bait.

Sponsors included:

AGENCIES/ ORGANIZATIONS

BLM - WY State Office
WY Game and Fish Department
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Cheyenne Parks and Recreation
CO/WY Chapter American Fisheries Society

LOCAL COMPANIES

Sportsmen's Outlet
Wal-Mart
West Laramie Fly Store
K-Mart
Sam's Club

NATIONAL COMPANIES

Danielson Co.
Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle
Bullet Weights
Optimum Baits



Fishing instruction at Sloans Lake.



Registration, get your free bag of goodies!



Does it bite?

←Fly tying.
What kind of bug is this?

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mark Gorges at (307) 775-6100.



Dad, don't forget to unhook my bobber from your hair!



We caught a lot of fish!



I got one too!



Can I help you get that hook out?

Some of the prizes given away to kids.



For additional information regarding National Fishing and Boating Week events in your state, contact the following individuals:

Alaska

Dennis Tol
907-271-3348

Arizona

Bill Grossi
602-417-9241

California

Lenore Thomas
916-978-4655

Colorado & Kansas

Jay Thompson
303-239-3724

Eastern States

Geoff Walsh
703-440-1668

Idaho

Tim Burton
208-373-3819

Montana & Dakotas

Gayle Sitter
406-896-5024

Nevada

Randy McNatt
775-861-6473

New Mexico & Oklahoma

Gregg Gustina
505-751-4707

Oregon & Washington

Joe Moreau
505-808-6418

Utah

Tom Mendenhall
801-539-4052

Wyoming & Nebraska

Mark Gorges
307-775-6100

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, we would like to thank BLM Director Kathleen Clarke and Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton for their support of National Fishing and Boating Week 2003. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers within the Federal, State, and local natural resource agencies and the non-government organizations, and every other volunteer nationwide that helps to make this program possible. A special “thanks” goes to the parents, teachers, and other mentors who have provided youngsters across the nation with the opportunity to share the outdoors and learn environmental stewardship.

For additional information regarding National Fishing and Boating Week, please contact Mr. Richard Bulavinetz or Ms. Michelle Dawson-Powell.

Richard E. Bulavinetz
Assistant Fish Program Lead
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
204 LS, 1849 C. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240
202-452-0325
fax 202-452-7702
Richard_Bulavinetz@blm.gov

Michelle Dawson-Powell
National Partnerships/Marketing/
Lewis and Clark Bicentennial
Coordinator
National Landscape Conservation
System Directorate
Bureau of Land Management
301 LS, 1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240-9998
202-452-5134
fax 202-653-2154
Michelle_Dawson@blm.gov

